

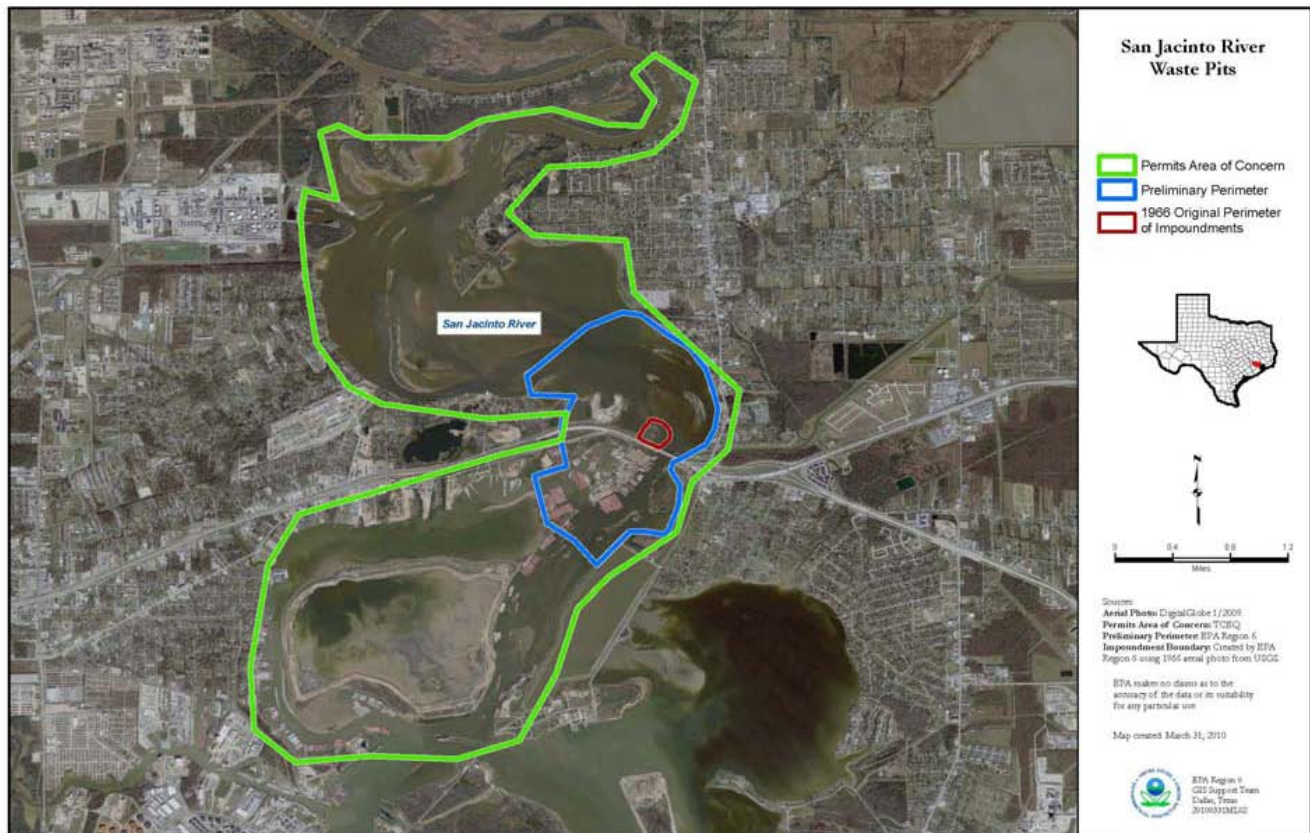
# San Jacinto River Waste Pits, Texas

Site Update – March 2011

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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## BACKGROUND:

The site consists of impoundments located adjacent to the Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) Bridge and the San Jacinto River and the surrounding areas, containing paper mill waste from the Pasadena Champion Paper Mill. Two impoundments are located north of the I-10 Bridge and are partially submerged in the San Jacinto River on the western side in Harris County, Texas. An additional impoundment is suspected to be located directly south of the I-10 Bridge and is currently being investigated under the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

The primary hazardous substances documented at the site are dioxins (polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans). Dioxin concentrations as high as 360,000 parts per trillion have been found in sediment samples collected from the submerged portion of the waste disposal ponds, as well as dioxin concentrations as high as 3,660 parts per trillion in sediment samples collected outside the original 1966 waste ponds. A fish consumption advisory based on dioxin is in place on this segment of the watershed.

The site was listed on the EPA National Priorities List on March 19, 2008. More information about the site is available at <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/pdf/files/0606611.pdf>.

## **STATUS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES:**

### **I. Community Outreach**

EPA, in coordination with Harris County, met with area stakeholders on March 23 to discuss ongoing public participation matters such as the website development and status of the site cleanup.

### **II. Source Stabilization**

Respondents continue land and waterside placement of armor cap rock on top of waste pit cells. Some initial clearing and grubbing of shrubs and trees took place prior to the placement of rock. As of March 28, total approximate rock placed (armor cap A, B/C, C, and D) to date is 19,675 tons, which is 32% of the entire project. More information about the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) is available at [www.epaossc.org/SanJacWPremoval](http://www.epaossc.org/SanJacWPremoval).

### **III. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)**

The six Field Sampling Plans of the Fate & Transport Model Study are under review by the EPA, TCEQ, Natural Resource Trustees, and Harris County. In addition, RI/FS soil samples were taken in the south impoundment and are being analyzed and QA/QC validated. The EPA SJRWP website has public information on the RI/FS, TCRA, and Houston/Galveston Bay Watershed and can be found online at: [http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/texas/san\\_jacinto](http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/texas/san_jacinto)

### **IV. Watershed Management**

EPA and the Galveston Corps of Engineers are working together to coordinate dredging and permitting activities in the affected area.

### **V. Enforcement**

The potentially responsible party (PRP) group is conducting the RI/FS under the Unilateral Administrative Order. The PRP group is conducting the TCRA under an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). Currently, the PRP group is in violation with the AOC for not performing work in accordance with the December 17, 2010, EPA approved Work Schedule. The PRP group is in the process of coming into compliance with the AOC.